

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues

Acting CEO

The Sound Transit Board in June officially designated Deputy CEO Mike Harbour as Acting CEO. Joni Earl, a longtime Sound Transit CEO is on medical leave recuperating from surgery.

Northgate dedication

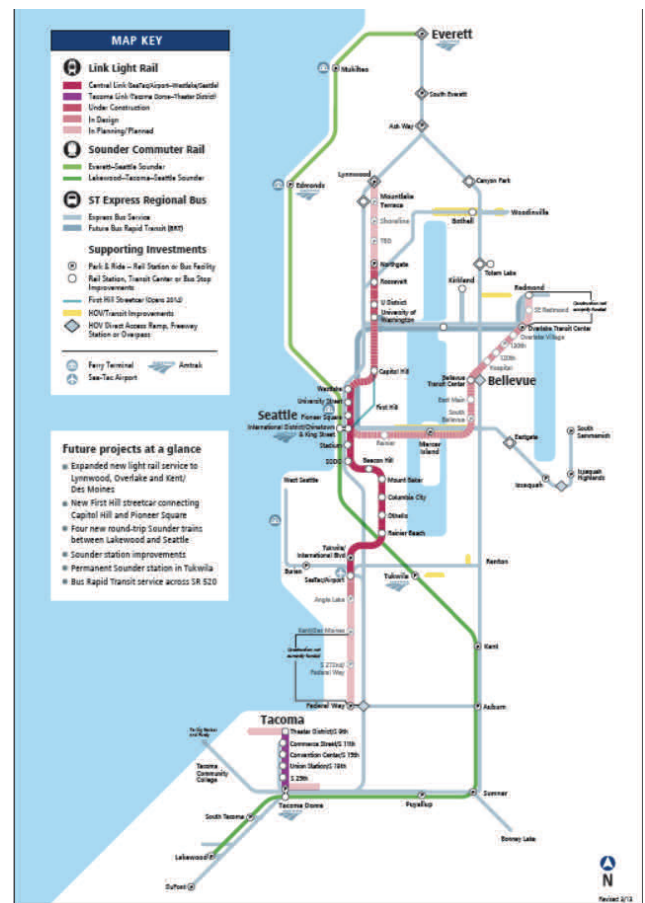
Officials throughout the region in May helped Sound Transit dedicate a Northgate Link light rail extension tunnel-boring machine. The machine will start its underground work in July.

The 4.3-mile Northgate Link line, which opens in 2021, will provide new congestion free travel through one of the most car-clogged corridors in the state. Trains will serve the U District, Roosevelt, and Northgate neighborhoods.

Strander Blvd. dedication

The City of Renton recently dedicated its Strander Blvd. project, which establishes a new arterial linking Renton and Tukwila. The project is helping create an improved transit hub in the area by connecting to Sound Transit's new Tukwila Sounder station parking lot. Strander Blvd. will also be used by Metro's Rapid Ride F service.

Sound Transit is paying \$4 million of the project's \$16.5 million budget.



Current and future transit improvements

Long-Range Plan

The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for updating the regional transit Long-Range Plan was released in June. That action kicked off a series of public hearings around the region to gather public comments on the document.

The Long-Range Plan is the blueprint for how the system should expand through future ballot measures after Sound Transit's current voter-approved projects are complete in 2023.

Agency Activities and Monitored Issues *continued***Tacoma Link fares**

The Sound Transit Board approved a proposal that will have the downtown Tacoma Business Improvement Area pay Sound Transit \$29,000 a year for the next two years to cover revenue from Tacoma Link fares the agency was planning to collect starting this September.

Currently, Tacoma Link does not charge fares, which is possible because of a longstanding Board policy that allows fare-free service in very limited circumstances, including when the cost of collecting fares exceeds potential revenue. With recent growth in ridership, however, Tacoma Link no longer falls under that policy. The financial support from the Business Improvement Area will cover Tacoma Link's projected fare revenues and will postpone the move to begin collecting fares.

Gold Standard

Sound Transit has earned the federal Transportation Security Administration's highest rating of "Gold Standard" for its transit security programs. The Gold Standard rating followed a comprehensive review of the agency's security programs including security plans, training, drills, public outreach efforts, and background check programs.

TSA works with transit agencies across the country to develop and implement security practices. Sound Transit is one of only six transit agencies in the nation to receive the Gold Standard.

Visitor day pass

The Puget Sound's transit agencies have launched a new ORCA visitor day pass aimed at tourists to the region. The day pass is a six-month pilot program that runs through September. At that time, the transit agencies will evaluate the results and determine if the day pass will continue.

The pass allows people to travel throughout the region by bus, train, and streetcar or water taxi all day for \$9. The new pass will be marketed to hotels and other businesses that focus on tourists and out-of-town visitors. Local residents can also purchase the day pass.

Unique garage

One of the unique features on the early designs for the future Angle Lake Station parking garage and plaza is its 165 solar panels. This is the first time that Sound Transit is using energy efficient solar panels in one of its garages.

The garage is part of the South 200th Link light rail extension. Construction begins this fall on the garage that will include 1,050 parking stalls, retail space, and room for future development in addition to the solar panels.

The 1.6-mile South 200th extension from Sea-Tac Airport to the Angle Lake Station is scheduled to open in 2016.